

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of hidden node detection at an access point of a wireless communication system including at least the access point and a plurality of nodes, comprising:
 - broadcasting a first command to the plurality of nodes to start a hidden node detection;
 - broadcasting a second command to the plurality of nodes to send a nodes report to the access point;
 - receiving a nodes report from each of a plurality of reporting nodes of the wireless communication system wherein a nodes report includes node communication related parameters of other nodes of the wireless communication system which are measured by a reporting node; ~~and~~
 - detecting a hidden node by analyzing the measured node communication related parameters of nodes of the wireless communication system based on the nodes reports from the plurality of reporting nodes; and
 - sending a hidden node report to one or more of the plurality of nodes to activate a hidden node protection mechanism for a particular node for avoiding a collision with a transmission from the hidden node when communicating with the access point.
2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein analyzing comprises further~~ comprising:
 - detecting an unreported node; and
 - sending a command to activate ~~a~~ the hidden node protection mechanism on a reporting node.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein analyzing comprises further~~ comprising:
 - detecting a signal strength below or equal to a threshold; and
 - sending a command to activate ~~a~~ the hidden node protection mechanism on a reporting node.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein sending a command to activate a hidden node protection mechanism comprises:
 - sending a command to enable a request-to-send/clear-to-send (RTS/CTS) control mechanism.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein sending a command to activate a hidden node protection mechanism comprises:
 - sending a subset of power adjustment commands to a subset of nodes based on the nodes report.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein sending a command to activate ~~a~~ the hidden node protection mechanism comprises:
 - sending a command to enable a request-to-send/clear-to-send (RTS/CTS) control mechanism.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein sending a command to activate a the hidden node protection mechanism comprises:

 sending a subset of power adjustment commands to a subset of nodes based on the nodes report.

9 – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a wireless communication system including at least the apparatus and a plurality of nodes, comprising:

 a transmitter to broadcast a first command to the plurality of nodes to start a hidden node ~~protection~~ detection, and to broadcast a second command to the plurality of nodes to send a nodes report to the apparatus, ~~and to broadcast a hidden node report to one or more of the plurality of nodes to activate a hidden node protection mechanism for a particular node for avoiding a collision with a transmission from a hidden node when communicating with the apparatus;~~

 a receiver to receive a nodes report from each of a plurality of reporting nodes of the wireless communication system, wherein a nodes report includes one or more node communication related parameters of other nodes of the wireless communication system which are measured by a reporting node; and

 a hidden node detector to detect a the hidden node in the wireless communication system by detection of an unreported node in at least one nodes report from the plurality of reporting ~~node~~ nodes.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, comprising:

 a controller to activate a the hidden node protection mechanism on a reporting node if a hidden node is detected.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the one or more node communication related parameters includes a signal strength indicator and the hidden node detector is able to detect a hidden node by analyzing the signal strength indicator.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the hidden node protection mechanism comprises a request-to-send/clear-to-send (RTS/CTS) control mechanism.
22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the hidden node protection mechanism comprises a transmitted power control mechanism that includes a subset of desired transmitted power levels related to the subset of nodes.
- 23 – 27. (Canceled)
28. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system comprising:
- a node to generate a nodes report of a plurality of other nodes of the wireless communication system wherein the nodes report includes one or more communication related parameters of ~~said~~ the plurality of other nodes whose signals are received and measured at the station; and
 - an access point to broadcast a first command to the node to start a hidden node detection, to broadcast a second command to the node to send the nodes report to the access point, ~~and~~ to detect a hidden node in the wireless communication system by detection of an unreported node in at least one ~~node~~ nodes report of the plurality of ~~node~~ nodes reports received from one or more nodes of the wireless communication system, and to send a hidden node report to one or more nodes of the wireless communication system to activate a hidden node protection mechanism for a particular node for avoiding collision with a transmission from the hidden node when communicating with the access point.

29. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein the access point is able to activate a the hidden node protection mechanism at the node to protect the node from transmissions of the hidden node.
30. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein said communication related parameters comprises a signal strength indicator of the plurality of nodes and the access point is able to detect a hidden node by analyzing said signal strength indicator.
31. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein the access point is able to detect a hidden node by detection of an unreported node ~~at~~ in the nodes report.
32. (Original) The wireless communication system of claim 29, wherein the hidden node protection mechanism comprises a request-to-send/clear-to-send (RTS/CTS) control mechanism.
33. (Original) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein the hidden node protection mechanism comprises a transmitted power control mechanism that includes a subset of desired transmitted power levels related to the subset of nodes.
- 34 – 38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) An article for use in hidden node detection at an access point of a wireless communication system including at least the access point and a plurality of nodes, comprising:
- a storage medium, having stored thereon instructions, that when executed, result in:
 - broadcasting a first command to the plurality of nodes to start a hidden node detection;
 - broadcasting a second command to the plurality of nodes to send a nodes report to the access point;
 - receiving a nodes report from each of a plurality of reporting nodes of the wireless communication system wherein a nodes report ~~reports~~ includes node communication related parameters of other nodes of the wireless communication system which are measured by a reporting node; ~~and~~
 - detecting a hidden node by analyzing the measured node communication related parameters of nodes of the wireless communication system based on the nodes reports from the plurality of reporting nodes; and
 - sending a hidden node report to one or more of the plurality of nodes to activate a hidden node protection mechanism for a particular node for avoiding a collision with a transmission from the hidden node when communicating with the access point.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 39 wherein the instructions when executed, result in:
- detecting an unreported node; and
 - sending a command to activate ~~a~~ the hidden node protection mechanism on a reporting node.

42. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 39 wherein the instructions when executed, result in:

detecting a signal strength below or equal to a threshold; and

sending a command to activate ~~a~~ the hidden node protection mechanism

on a reporting node.